

**CITY OF NORWALK
HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING
JUNE 3, 2020**

ATTENDANCE: John Romano, Chair; Dr. John Pinto, John Crespo, Alan Kibbe, Tony Mobilia, Jeffrey Mangels, Christopher MacDonnell, Dennis Santella, Matt Gifford

OTHERS: Steve Kleppin, Director of Planning and Zoning; Geoff Steadman, Consultant; Pete Johnson, Shellfish Commission; Steve Bartush, Shellfish Commission; Joseph Schnierlein

This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.
The public was able to listen to this meeting by calling a conference line.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Romano called the meeting at 5:45 p.m. A quorum was present.

Application Review- Dr. Pinto -CONT'D
Standing Action Items: DOT's Plans to relocation of Maritime Aquarium and Seaport Association excursion vessels. Open discussion of future Walk Bridge proposals regarding placement of transmission cables by Eversource and DOT, DOT's plans for stationing work barges in Norwalk

Dr. Pinto reported that there had not been any new information from the DOT about the project. Mr. Steadman had some questions about the contractor's yard located on Wilson Avenue. Dr. Pinto said that he had not heard anything more about that situation.

Mr. Steadman said that DEEP had contacted Planning and Zoning about referring the application to them because of the 20 foot-high wall.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

No report.

STAFF REPORTS

a. Harbor Master – Gregg Scully

Due to technical difficulties Mr. Scully was not able to present his report at this time.

Consultant – Steadman –

No report.

SHELLFISH COMMISSION

Mr. Johnson said that they had looked at a Five Mile River application Rowayton. There is less than 6 inches of water at low tide, so the recommendation is that they have a boat lift installed.

Mr. Steadman said that Mr. Bartush and Harbor Master Scully were on the lines but were muted.

OTHER COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mooring and Harbor Safety - Santella

Mr. Santella said that the mooring renewal applications are being processed. He said that there are 29 applications approved and 44 under review. E-mails have been sent to applicants that have missing information. All first payments for the managed fields have been received. He stopped briefly his report so that the Harbor Master could provide his report.

Harbor Master – Gregg Scully CONT'D

Mr. Scully said that he would like to apologize for some remarks he made last month during the meeting about the Fire Department.

Mr. Scully said that he had been contacted by three new applicants earlier in the day. He also mentioned there had been an additional 30-day extension issued in order to get a sail boat registered and insured. There has been a steady number of new people looking for moorings. There was also a brief discussion about transit moorings.

Mooring and Harbor Safety – CONT'D

Mr. Santella said that Sgt. Lapak had sent in a report for the month of May which mentioned a recent theft from a boat moored off of Sheffield Island and the subsequent arrest of the suspect. Boating activity is off to a slow start. They are working 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and have issued several citations for speeding in the harbor. They are now staffed for 7 days a week.

Shellfish Commission CONT'D

Mr. Bartush said that Rec & Parks have been regulating the boat launch ramps during COVID-19. When they are not there watching, the staff has been blocking off the ramp with Jersey barriers. He said that this was like blocking off an emergency exit since a vessel might suddenly need to be removed from the water because of a leak.

**** MR. BARTUSH MOVED THAT THE COMMISSION PRESENT TO RECREATION AND PARKS THAT AS IN ORDINARY TIMES THAT THE RAMPS BE KEPT OPEN AND UNOBSTRUCTED.**

**** THERE WAS A SECOND.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Romano asked Mr. Steadman to draft a letter to the Recreation and Parks Department regarding this.

Discussion followed about having a dinghy dock and access for those who are not Norwalk residents, including the use of credit cards for transit mooring. Mr. Steadman said that there had been six transit moorings and they had disappeared after the dredging project.

Dr. Pinto said that there was a map of all the access points in the Harbor Management Plan.

Water Quality – Crespo / Schnierlein –

Mr. Romano said that Mr. Schnierlein had some issues about Water Quality since many of the members of the group had not received invitations. Mr. Baker said that he would contact Mr. Schnierlein for updated information.

Finance – Mobilia

Mr. Mobilia said that the City was looking into getting a Stripe account for the moorings that would allow access to the program. Mr. Santella said that it was already in the works.

Mr. Mobilia presented his report. He said that they had received some revenue from the mooring fees. It was reported the BET budget was approved and he hoped that they would receive the \$20,000 the commission had requested.

Plans and Recommendation – Mangels

Mr. Mangels said that they had focused on increasing revenue through the Harbor use Fee. There was already one meeting with a boat club and several other meetings are scheduled.

Dr. Pinto asked if there had been any feedback from the boat clubs. Mr. Mangels said that there was some pushback regarding the mooring presentation. He also said that one of the past Commodores had asked Mr. Mangels to contact him.

Mr. Mangels said that they would like to look at the managed fields and get a head count. He said that he had sent out a report about the meeting on the South Norwalk Boat Club.

Newsletter/ Web site – Kibbe

Mr. Kibbe said he would like to send out a release to the boaters about availability of moorings in Norwalk.

Water Quality – Crespo / Schnierlein – CONT'D

Mr. Schnierlein said that he had sent out a recent article about COVID. He reported the Department of Aquaculture Would not be taking any action regarding testing the water quality because COVID-19 is not water borne. Mr. Schnierlein said that there had been a study released about testing sewage that indicated the number of COVID cases in an area.

Bridges – Mobilia –

Mr. Mobilia said his Report was covered within other committee reports.

Mr. Mobilia said that the DOT would be having a public meeting about Manresa Island use during the Walk Bridge construction on June 16th. Mr. Steadman displayed a photo of Manresa Island and said that the Commission had not received any proposed plans.

Mr. Santella said that in order to attend the public he would have to register to get into the meeting. Discussion followed.

Mr. Schnierlein said that Manresa Island is a breeding area for the diamond backed terrapin and the Mantis Shrimp. This particular species of shrimp is edible, but it has to be handled with caution because it impales its food with a spear like forelimb.

Mr. MacDonnell spoke about a presentation that had taken place a few years earlier with NRG regarding leasing the basin. Discussion followed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no Public Comment at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Pinto said that he had already submitted his comments.

**** MR. MACDONNELL MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED.**

**** DR. PINTO SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ADJOURNMENT.

**** DR. PINTO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MR. MANGELS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services